What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. View this email in your browser

Newsletter #150:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello everyone! I hope you are all staying healthy in this very uncertain time. I have to admit that up until this last week I was fairly busy so I didn't notice anything much different than normal. On Monday that changed slightly as there were no big auctions happening. I started to live what everyone else is presumably experiencing: A real slow down. I'm trying to make the most out of this confinement. This means having more time to do research and finding alternative ways to be part of the coin community.

Here is what is happening in the auction world right now:

Roma E-Sale 69 (closes 16 April)

Roma will auction 1,717 lots in their April 16th sale. The first part is another round of 185 coins from the William Stancomb collection. While some of the more impressive pieces from the sale have ended up in the last few bigger floor auctions, there is a considerable volume of nice, pedigreed material that show up in their e-sales. Many of the lots were plate coins in the SNG Stancomb reference book. I noticed quite a few countermarked coins in this Stancomb offering. Countermarks are sometimes viewed as eye sores by collectors, but most of us think that they are fascinating. Countermarks were employed on coins to enable them to be used as currency that would have otherwise been voided. Check out some of the cool countermarks in the Stancomb section. For example, lot 42 seems to have a countermark of a head (probably Demeter) and then one of the eagle/dolphin imagery that is found on coins from Istrus. Lot 46 has a head of Athena as the countermark. Lot 57 has a beautiful crowned head countermark. Lot 66 a head of Demeter and a kernal of corn. There are more but this is just a small example of some of the interesting pieces.

Other interesting coins to consider are lots 230-239 which is a small group of coins from Mauritania. Some of these coins come from a known hoard and were auctioned in

a French sale. Lot 332 is a pretty toned example of Syracuse 8 litrai. It comes from Heritage Auctions Europe and I would guess has an additional uncovered pedigree based on its toning. Check out lot 540. Doesn't it look like a lobster? It is described as a laurel branch with buds on the side. My eyes saw it differently though! For those of you that collect Aksumite coins there are several to choose from. These Northern African coins are typically difficult to obtain. I love lot 742. It isn't expensive and it has a wonderful image of Hermanubis on the reverse. Who needs Playboy with coins like this from Alexandria (just checking to see if you all are actually reading this).

I plan to participate in this auction so please get in touch if you need representation services.

CNG Special Auction 114 (13-14 May)

This auction was supposed to be CNG's first live auction in their home state of Pennsylvania. It was to take place over two days (13-14 May). They haven't yet officially changed the venue but the likelihood is that this will be an inhouse virtual live auction as Roma, Künker and others have done. My plan was to attend the Swiss NAC auction and then fly back to Pennsylvania to attend this auction in person. Obviously plans change and we need to adapt. I will be participating and representing clients in this auction. There are major benefits to using my services during this auction so please get in touch if you want help. I certainly would appreciate the business.

Start to check out the auction on the CNG website. Here is a link to it:

https://auctions.cngcoins.com/auctions/4-9QBMK/cng-feature-auction-114

There is a paper catalog for this auction but I haven't yet gone out to retrieve mine from my mailbox. I don't know how many I got so if you want one please let me know and I will ensure you get one. This auction is really up there in quality so take a peek. Lots of lovely pedigreed pieces and it clearly shows that they were preparing to start their first home soil auction with a bang. We can absolutely still take part in this sale without being there in person. I'm just starting to look at all the lots now so I'll highlight some in the next newsletter.

Chris Rudd - John Follows Collection, part II (14 May)

This is the second part of the John Follows Celtic gold collection. The sale is only 48 coins but there are some nice rarities available. I read an informative article written by the collector himself from the March 2020 Coin News. If anyone wants to read it just let me know and I will email it to you. I love lot 16 with the reverse of a gorgon head. Many of these coins came into the market through the PAS (portable antiquities scheme) thus through metal detectorists. What I like about the PAS is that all coins found are inventoried and offered first to local museums.

The ANA magazine - The Numismatist

I want to pitch the ANA magazine a bit here. I mentioned in a previous newsletter that Ursula Kampmann is now contributing to the magazine with a little help from yours truly. I also want to point out that the articles are truly informative and interesting to read. I read a great article by Michael Shutterly called Leaves of Silver: The Art & Artistry of Bracteates. I have started selling early German states coinage and brateactes are one of my favorites (see the coin of the week!). This author does a good job of explaining the

process of striking (despite being similar in style to a Greek coin from Poseidonia or Caulonia, the striking process is different as the flans are vastly different in width). There was also a great article on British Tokens from Doug Mudd, the museum curator for the ANA. I'm also drawn to tokens and have started to offer them in regularity on my online store and vcoins.

I personally find the paper version so much nicer than the digital although I understand if you folks don't want to kill trees. The ANA needs your support more than ever right now so if you don't have a membership to the ANA, PLEASE JOIN!!! Remember the ANA is a 501(c)(3) and exists because of people like us. Here is a link to join:

https://www.money.org/account/join

Updates to Shows and Auctions

ANA Summer Seminar

Unfortunately the Summer Seminar had to be cancelled due to the virus. The ANA headquarters is located on the grounds of Colorado College and therefore are at the mercy of the college for holding their seminar. Once CC gave the mandate that the college wouldn't allow the ANA Summer Seminar to be held at headquarters there was really no choice in the matter. That said, I know that there is a lot of talk amongst the staff at the ANA to find ways to virtually connect with members. Rest assured there will be some sort of way to "attend" a seminar.

ANA WFOM in Pittsburgh (August 2020)

At the moment the fair is still a go but I'm not optimistic that it will take place. There is discussion about using the convention center as a hospital for COVID-19. Pittsburgh is considered one of the "hot spots" for the virus. Knowing this I wonder if the city may actually cancel all events. They will obviously have to really sanitize the convention center if they in fact use it for COVID-19. I'll keep everyone informed. We should know very soon.

Coin of the Week

GERMANY, Anhalt (Margrafschaft). Albrecht der Bär. 1123-1170 AD. Wegeleben, Ballenstedt, or Aschersleben mint
AR Bracteate, 0.86g (27mm). Half-length figure of Albrecht facing, holding sword in right hand and banner in left, within domed arch between two towers / Incuse of obverse.

Pedigree: From the Richard A. Jourdan Collection of Medieval European Coins. Ex Künker 138 (11 March 2008), lot 6339.

References: Grierson, Coins of Medieval Europe 179; Kestner 1753; Bonhoff 538; Löbbecke 394.

Grade: Beautifully toned. EF

Price: $3,850

wc1079

Buy Coin

Bracteates are interesting coins in that they are paper thin silver, hammered with crude imagery. They were also called "hollowed pennies" and used as a regional currency in German speaking areas. Bracteates were regularly called back (about once or twice a year) in order to renew the coins. This meant that a tax of sorts in the form of keeping one bracteate happened. If one brought back four bracteate then they would receive three news ones in return. This system helped to stimulate the economy but also caused a huge disruption to business dealings. The end result was the creation of an "eternal penny" in around 1413.

https://www.shannaschmidt.com/world/germany-anhalt-margrafschaft-albrecht-der-br-1123-1170-ad-wegeleben-ballenstedt-or-aschersleben-mint?rq=wc1079

If you are interested in this coin please click the link above or email me at shanna@shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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